

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /027 W

----- 022902

R 291000Z OCT 74

FM AMMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5050

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 13199

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ID

SUBJ: SUHARTO STRONGLY DENIES ROYAL ANCESTRY

1. PRESIDENT SUHARTO HAS CREATED A POLITICAL CAUSE
CELEBRE BY ELABORATE AND STRENUOUS DENIALS OF ARTICLE
IN JAKARTA WEEKLY "POP" MAGAZINE LINKING HIM BY BIRTH
WITH YOGYAKARTA ROYAL FAMILY.

2. AFTER EARLIER DENIALS BY FAMILY AND GOI SPOKESMAN,
SUHARTO CALLED PRESS CONFERENCE OCTOBER 28 TO PRESENT
PROOF OF HIS PEASANT ORIGINS. HE VIGOROUSLY BRANDED
STORY OF HIS NOBLE BIRTH AS "INSULT" TO HIM AND FAMILY
AND EVIDENTLY "SUBVERSIVE" EFFORT BY POLITICAL ELEMENTS
TO TRADUCE HEAD OF STATE AND ENDANGER NATIONAL STABILITY.

3. SUHARTO-WATCHERS ARE ALREADY SPINNING COMPLEX
THEORIES FOR SUHARTO PERFORMANCE. ONE THEORY (WHICH
IS FAR FROM PROVED) FROM ENEMIES OF ALI MURTOPO, IS
THAT SUHARTO IS USING INCIDENT TO WARN MURTOPO OF
EXCESSES BY MURTOPO'S OPUS (SPECIAL OPERATIONS). THEORY
IS BASED ON REPORT THAT ONE BACKER OF "POP" MAGAZINE, WHICH
GOVERNMENT HAS NOW BANNED, IS COL SUGIANTO, ALI MURTOPO'S
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DEPUTY AT OPUS, AND THAT SUHARTO MADE CRITICAL REFERENCE

DURING PRESS CONFERENCE TO CONNECTION OF AN OPUS MAN WITH "POP"
WHILE BLASTING THE MAGAZINE, AS ALI MURTOPO SAT LISTENING.
OUR GUESS IS SIMPLER EXPLANATION THAT SUHARTO IS PERSONALLY UPSET
AT ROYALTY RUMORS, BUT MORE IMPORTANT SEES POLITICAL
ADVANTAGE TO BE GAINED AND IS SHREWDLY EXPLOITING ARTICLE
TO PROVE THAT HE IS TRULY A MAN OF THE PEOPLE. MORE
DETAILED ANALYSIS THIS INTERESTING EPISODE FOLLOWS BY
POUCH.
NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONAL OPINION, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JAKART13199
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740307-0776
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741011/aaaaaint.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUHARTO STRONGLY DENIES ROYAL ANCESTRY
TAGS: PINT, ID, (SUHARTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005